



Community of Christ Lutheran Church
Third Sunday in Lent, March 3, 2024
8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
Pastor Steve Bond



THE GATHERING

Welcome

Pastor Steve Bond

Musical Prelude

“Minuet” by J.S. Bach

Eric Dickey

REMEMBER OUR BAPTISM

“Confession and Forgiveness”

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus. **Amen.**

Held in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God, we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.

Here is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through ✝ Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Hymn

“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

ELW 324

Greeting

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. **C And also with you.**



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

Prayer of the Day

P Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace and teach us the wisdom that comes only through Jesus Christ, our Savior, and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Childrens Sermon

Anthem

“Come to the Water” by John Foley

Choir 10:00 a.m.

THE READINGS

The First Reading: Exodus 20:1-17

¹God spoke all these words:

²I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me.

⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your

livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

¹²Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³You shall not murder.

¹⁴You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵You shall not steal.

¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

L The Word of the Lord C Thanks be to God!

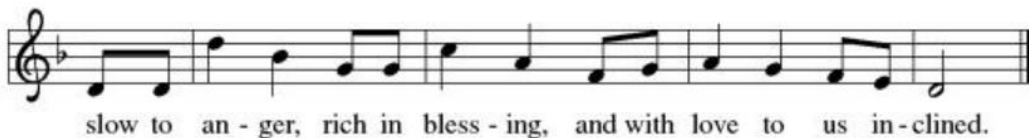
The Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

L The Word of the Lord C Thanks be to God!



The Holy Gospel: John 2:13-22

P The Holy Gospel according.... **C Glory to you, O Lord!**

¹³The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!"

¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." ¹⁸The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?"

¹⁹Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."

²⁰The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" ²¹But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

P The Gospel of the Lord! **C Praise to you, O Christ!**

Sermon "The Holy Troublemaker and the God-Box" *Pastor Steve Bond*

Hymn "Canticle of the Turning" **ELW 723**

Nicene Creed

C We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him, all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven; was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day, he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy

catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

WE DEDICATE OUR HEARTS IN PRAYER

P Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

A brief silence.

AM You alone are God. We thank you for the gift of sabbath rest. Awaken the church to the mystery of your presence and give us glad hearts as we receive the good news of your deliverance. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM You renew creation. Drive out those who would make the earth a marketplace. Protect rainforests, mountaintops, oceans, and wilderness areas from commercial exploitation. Unite nations, policymakers, and businesses in efforts to reduce carbon emissions. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM You judge the nations. We pray for an end to war and strife in every land. Strengthen international efforts to negotiate peace and provide humanitarian aid to people fleeing from conflict. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM You bring healing and hope. We give thanks for physicians, nurses, researchers, therapists, and public health workers who prevent and treat illness. We pray for any who are sick; **Tom Jennings, Craig Burdo, Phyllis Sturgeon, Sue & Jim Enk, Christal & Chad Pritchard, Brittany Dewitz, Judy Mock, Kathy Phillips, Dick Rison, Marita Perkins, Frank O'Konski, Donna Longnecker, Kevin Stiles, Carol Stiles, Cheryl Fischer, Marjorie Albrechta, Beth Hite, Marie Gasboro, Lisa De Armond, Jim and Barb Page, Holli Blackwell.....** and all others whom we remember in silence. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM You abide with your people. Sustain any in this community undergoing life transitions: marriage, divorce, childbirth, adoption, moving, graduation, employment change, or a death in the family. We pray for those preparing for baptism. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM You bring life from death. We remember our loved ones who have died, especially *Kay Burdo*, confident that they have new life in you. May we trust that nothing can separate us from your love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

THE MEAL

All Christians are welcome to commune at our Altar. You do not have to be a member of this congregation to receive Communion. Grape juice is available in the inner ring of glasses for those desiring it. A "gluten-free" host option is available upon request as well.

Sharing of the Peace

P The Peace of the Lord be with you all! **C And also with you!**
Share an expression of peace with your neighbor, please.

Our Tithes and Offerings *Bring your gifts to the Altar or you may offer gifts in the tray located at the rear of the sanctuary. Thank you.*

Offering Prayer

AM Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered so that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

****The Eucharistic Prayer Continues.....**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Jesus said, Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Jesus said, Do this for the remembrance of me.

The Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...**C** **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

Communion Hymns

“Lamb of God”



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

Hymn

“How Great Thou Art”

ELW 856

“When I Survey the Wonderous Cross”

ELW 803

Post Communion Blessing

Prayer after Communion

AM Generous God, at this table, we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world: in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. **Amen.**

Prayer at the Sending of Communion

Eternal God, whose glory is revealed in the crucified and risen Lord, bless those who go forth to share your word and sacrament with our sisters and brothers who are *sick/homebound*. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those to whom we bring this communion in the body and blood of your Son, that we may all feast upon your abundant love made known in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE SENDING

Milestones & Announcements:

The Blessing

P God bless you and keep you, ✝ Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

ELW 705

Dismissal

AM Go in peace. Share your bread. **Thanks be to God.**

AM And next week, **C Bring a friend!**

Postlude

Making Jesus Known”

Welcome to Worship! We warmly welcome you to Community of Christ! We hope that God’s Word and Sacrament is a blessing for your day and the week ahead! If you are visiting and seeking a church home, we sincerely hope you will consider C of C! All are welcome to the table of the Lord today! Come and be blessed by the forgiving grace of our God!

Join US!! Each Sunday at 8:00 a.m. or 10:00 a.m. in person or at 10:00 a.m. on Facebook Live!!! Don’t forget to BRING a FRIEND!!!

Friends are you interested in Congregational Membership?? Please complete the visitor form in the friendship pad. Our Pastor would love to speak with you about Community of Christ! We hope you will consider making C of C your church home!

New Worship Volunteer Role: Verger

There will be a new volunteer role you can help with on Sundays in 2024, with a particular focus on having someone available and “on call” during the service itself for miscellaneous needs, once the service has started. This role, which we are calling the “verger,” (a title that goes back centuries for a person set apart as caretaker or attendant during worship services), is meant to help keep eyes and ears open for any needs that might arise during worship. That could be something as simple as watching for people who arrive late to the service and need a bulletin or help with finding seating, or in case any direction is needed for newcomers or visitors with the flow of communion through our aisle. Or it could involve having your eyes open for anyone who might look like they need a first-aid kit, or knowing where the church’s AED is in case of a medical emergency. Once worship has started, the people in “up front” roles may not be able to notice or respond to issues that might arise within the congregation or for those arriving once the service has started. Having someone who is willing to keep an eye open for needs that might arise during worship itself prevents a situation where those needs slip through the cracks or small needs grow into larger problems or could help to save time in a situation of an emergent medical need. You’ll be able to sign up on our Sign-Up Genius (through the church website, through the Participation in Ministries option under the “Get Involved” tab on our site, www.commofchrist.org). Please consider whether you might have the gifts and interest to serve as one of our *vergers* on Sundays here at Community of Christ!

Friendship Pad located in your pew--- Please pass it along!

A great way to make a new friend for members and visitors alike!!! Please share the friendship pad each time you worship! You may update your address with our church office, indicate a prayer concern, the desire for a pastoral visit OR meet and welcome a new visitor. Visitors—we would love to communicate a welcome to you! Please sign and fill out the friend pad as well! **Pass the pad! Thanks!**

**Thank
you!**

A special Thank You to all who donated items or helped make casseroles. We were able to make 51 casseroles to be given out through our Visitation Ministry in the weeks to come! We appreciate your donations, hands, time, culinary skill, and care!



Hey friends! Have you seen the **Noisy Offering jar?** If so, please bring your loose change to help raise funds for different ministries. From now until May, we will be using these monies to raise the needle on the thermometer for our 50th Anniversary fundraiser! This is a great and fun way for our youngsters to share their gifts during our Tithes and Offerings at the 8 or 10 o'clock Worship Service 😊 Thank you!

Eclipse Day Gathering at Community of Christ (April 8, 2:30-3:30)

Community of Christ is hosting an Eclipse Watching Gathering this April, and this is a big deal, astronomically speaking! The last time there was a total solar eclipse in northwestern Ohio was more than two hundred years ago in 1806, so this is the chance of a lifetime to see the sun's light being covered by the shadow of the moon. If you're looking for a place to watch, you are welcome to come to the churchyard on Monday, April 8, where from 2:30 pm to 3:30 p.m. we'll be celebrating the day and observing the sky! We can't guarantee what the weather will be like on that day, and if it's cloudy our observations will obviously be limited, but if we get clear skies, this could be a wonder to behold! Since our local schools are off for the day, you won't be missing school, and we'll have some pairs of eclipse-viewing glasses

available if you haven't gotten some on your own already (available in stores and online now, if you're interested in getting your own). Since our faith reminds us that God's love is even more faithful than the sun, since "there is no shadow of turning with thee", this is a chance to remember that even when the sun's light is covered up by the moon (or clouds) God's love is constant and ever-present—so it makes sense to be with us in the churchyard on a day like this! Join us on April 8 for Eclipse Day at Community of Christ!



**Altar
Flowers**
Ministry Opportunity

Altar Flowers are given by Sandy Boehly in honor of her step grandson, Charlie's 1st Birthday!

**Join us on Facebook Live at
10:00 a.m.
or
in person!**

Worship & Sacrament
Sunday 8 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

Sunday Morning Bible Study
9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

AA Meeting
Wednesdays 8 p.m.

Midweek Bible Study
Thursdays at 1:00 p.m.

Caregivers Support Meeting
First Monday of every month
6:30 p.m.

Clean & Feed Weekend
4th Sunday of Every Month

Join us for Sunday School on March 10 here at Community of Christ!

JESUS



**COME ALONG WITH ME!
THERE'S ALWAYS
A PLACE AT MY TABLE
FOR YOU!**

**A PLACE
FOR YOU!**

Join us for Kids Sunday School between services (9:00) in the fellowship hall with stories, songs, and fun!

Worship Services
Available on the net
at www.commofchrist.org

LENT 2024

This Lent, join us for each of these Wednesday evenings, with a simple dinner shared at 6:00pm, a hands-on creative artistic project for all ages after dinner, and our evening service at 7:00pm!

Feb. 21--God Hangs Up the Bow

Feb. 28--Called By A New Name

Mar. 6--Learning To Be Free

Mar. 13--The Image of Christ, Part 1

Mar. 20--The Image of Christ, Part 2



Jazz Band Mar. 10 We are planning to host a concert featuring the Anthony Wayne High School Jazz Band here at Community of Christ on the afternoon of Sunday, March 10 at 3:00 p.m. as one more special musical celebration.

Bed Builds April 6 Part of our commitment as we give thanks for the past fifty years of our congregation's history is our pledge to take on new social ministries to help reach out to neighbors near and far with God's love. And this project is a really exciting way for us to mark that milestone of five decades! Sign up at the kiosk!

May 4-5 Weekend The culmination of our 50th celebration that began back in September 2023, commemorating the first organizational gatherings of what would become Community of Christ will be on the weekend of May 4-5, 2024, when we'll have a big celebration dinner and program, held at Anthony Wayne High School (as an homage to our first gatherings in that cafeteria before our first worship space was built), and then a joyful celebration in worship on Sunday, May 5, with guests and special friends joining us. More details are to come on these

days as we get closer, but please plan to join us on May 4 and 5 for the climax of our 50-year celebration! **Please note that we will have ONE service on this day at 9:00 a.m.**

The Masterworks Chorale conducted by Tim Cloeter will present its Classics Concert at Epiphany Lutheran Church on Saturday, March 16, at 8:00 p.m. This concert will focus on heavenly light—not only the literal light from the moon and stars but also the light of paradise. The highlight of the concert will be Fauré’s *Requiem*, an extraordinary light-filled remembrance of the dearly departed for choir and chamber orchestra. Tickets are available at 419-742-2775 or www.masterworkstoledo.com. Epiphany Lutheran Church is at 915 N. Reynolds Road in Toledo. (Our very own Chad Ackerman will be singing!)

Soup Supper
Wednesday, March 6
Visitation Ministry Meeting
Monday, March 4
LWR Quilt Ministry
Tuesday, March 5
Stewardship Meeting
Tuesday, March 5
Worship & Music Meeting
Thursday, March 7
Dinners for Eight
Saturday, March 9
AWHS Jazz Band @ COC
Sunday, March 10
Christian Education Meeting
Monday, March 11
Church Council Meeting
Tuesday, March 12



Did one of our Bible readings capture your attention today? Was there a story you could picture in your mind? Did a phrase from a hymn or a thought from the sermon start some new ideas or inspire some reflection? Did a Scripture passage spark a question for you to think about? Use this space here as an open canvas for your faithful imagination: you can draw a picture of something you pictured, write a question, take notes from the message or scriptures, or doodle your faith into a visible form here. Then, either take it with you or

leave your thoughts and images here to be shared in an ongoing collection here at Community of Christ!